

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method for transferring value from a value provider, the method
2 comprising:
3 receiving a request initiated by a value owner to transfer value from the value
4 provider to a recipient in a converted form;
5 receiving the value from the value provider with an exchange provider, the
6 exchange provider including a processor configured for conversion of the value into the
7 converted form;
8 converting the received value with the processor of the exchange provider to
9 the converted form; and
10 transmitting the converted value from the exchange provider to the recipient.

1 2 . The method recited in claim 1 wherein the recipient comprises a
2 second value provider.

1 3. The method recited in claim 1 wherein the request is issued by the
2 value owner to the value provider.

1 4. The method recited in claim 1 wherein converting the received value
2 comprises extracting a transaction fee.

1 5. The method recited in claim 1 wherein the received value and the
2 converted value comprise a common value type.

1 6. The method recited in claim 1 further comprising authenticating at
2 least a portion of the request with the value provider.

1 7. The method recited in claim 1 further comprising issuing an identifier
2 to the value owner with the processor, such identifier being sufficient to identify the
3 converted value with the recipient.

1 8. The method recited in claim 1 wherein receiving the request comprises
2 receiving an interactive-voice-response instruction.

1 9. The method recited in claim 1 wherein receiving the request comprises
2 receiving an instruction over the internet.

1 10. The method recited in claim 1 wherein receiving the request comprises
2 receiving DTMF tones.

1 11. The method recited in claim 1 wherein at least one of the received
2 value and the converted value comprises nonmonetary value.

1 12. The method recited in claim 1 wherein at least one of the received
2 value and the converted value comprises mobile-phone minutes.

1 13. The method recited in claim 1 wherein at least one of the received
2 value and the converted value comprises travel points within a mileage program.

1 14. The method recited in claim 1 wherein the recipient comprises an
2 individual and the converted value comprises cash.

1 15. The method recited in claim 1 further comprising verifying an identity
2 of the value owner.

1 16. The method recited in claim 15 wherein verifying the identity of the
2 value owner comprises comparing a PIN provided by the value owner with a stored PIN
3 assigned to the value owner.

1 17. The method recited in claim 15 wherein verifying the identity of the
2 value owner comprises comparing a biometric feature of the value owner with a stored
3 representation of the biometric feature.

1 18. The method recited in claim 1 wherein receiving the value from the
2 value provider, converting the received value, and transmitting the converted value are
3 performed recurrently in accordance with the request.

1 19. A method for transferring nonmonetary value from a first value
2 provider to a second value provider, the method comprising:

3 receiving a request initiated by a value owner to effect the transfer;
4 receiving nonmonetary value from the first value provider with an exchange
5 provider, the exchange provider including a processor configured for conversion of the
6 nonmonetary value into the converted value; and

7 transmitting nonmonetary value from the exchange provider to the second
8 value provider in accordance with the request.

1 20. The method recited in claim 19 further comprising converting the
2 nonmonetary value received from the first value provider into the nonmonetary value
3 transmitted to the second value provider.

1 21. The method recited in claim 20 wherein converting the nonmonetary
2 value consists of extracting a transaction fee.

1 22. A method for exiting nonmonetary value from a value provider, the
2 method comprising:

3 receiving a request initiated by a first customer of the value provider to exit
4 the nonmonetary value to a recipient individual, wherein the first customer is an owner of the
5 nonmonetary value;

6 receiving the nonmonetary value from the value provider with an exchange
7 provider, the exchange provider including a processor configured for conversion of the
8 nonmonetary value into monetary value;

9 converting the nonmonetary value with the processor of the exchange provider
10 into monetary value; and

delivering the monetary value to the recipient individual.

23. The method recited in claim 22 further comprising authenticating at least a portion of the request with the value provider.

1 24. The method recited in claim 22 wherein the monetary value comprises
2 cash.

1 25. The method recited in claim 22 wherein the recipient individual is a
2 second customer of the value provider.

1 26. A system for transferring value from a value provider, the system
2 comprising:

an input device configured for receiving a request initiated by a value owner to
transfer value from the value provider to a recipient in a converted form;

5 an output device configured for transmitting converted value to the recipient;

6 and

7 a processor in communication with the input device and the output device, the
8 processor being configured to convert value received from the value provider into the
9 converted value.

1 27. The system recited in claim 26 wherein the recipient comprises a
2 second value provider.

1 28. The method recited in claim 26 wherein the input device comprises an
2 interactive-voice-response unit.

1 29. The method recited in claim 26 wherein the input unit comprises an
2 internet connection.

1 30. The method recited in claim 26 wherein at least one of the value and
2 the converted value comprises nonmonetary value.

1 31. A system for transferring value from a value provider, the system
2 comprising:

3 input means for receiving a request initiated by a value owner to transfer value
4 from the value provider to a recipient in a converted form;

5 processor means for converting value received from the value provider into
6 converted value; and

7 output means for transmitting converted value to the recipient,
8 wherein the processor means is in communication with the input and output
9 means.

1 32. The system recited in claim 31 wherein at least one of the value and
2 the converted value comprises nonmonetary value.